



**BILL:** HB0515

**BILL TITLE:** Real Property – Candidates – Access to Apartment Buildings

**BILL SPONSOR:** Delegate Palakovich Carr

**COMMITTEE:** Environment and Transportation

**POSITION:** Favorable

**HEARING DATE:** February 2, 2021

**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB0515**

Cristi Demnowicz, Chair  
Represent Maryland

Represent Maryland believes in democracy, and democracy means that all people have equal access to information and opportunity. Currently, many people among the renter class are prevented from equal access to information about elections and candidates through one of the most common forms of outreach: door knocking. Because building owners/landlords set the rules for a shared domicile, they can prevent candidates, and worse, GOTV volunteers, from educating residents about upcoming elections.

If this prevention isn't outlawed, it declares that people of certain financial status should have control and authority of those of a different financial status, and that is not democratic. Worse, it's classist and upholds a caste system in Maryland.

The practice of preventing access to campaign/election volunteers and organizers needs to be prohibited, which is why we support HB0515 and hope you will find it favorable.

Sincerely,  
Cristi Demnowicz  
Chair  
Represent Maryland  
Maryland Voter-LD07

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Represent Maryland is a grassroots anti-corruption group of citizen advocates that #FightForDemocracy in Maryland. Our democracy solutions include: Public Election Funds, Independent Redistricting, Special Elections, Ranked Choice Voting, Increased Ethics and Transparency, and Increased Voter Participation.

Learn more about our work at [www.RepresentMaryland.org](http://www.RepresentMaryland.org)  
Authorized by Represent Maryland PAC, T. Miller, Treasurer